



GNU Hackers Meeting 2017

GNU Behistun Historical Context and Free Software Advocacy

Speaker: Christopher Dimech

Palace of Darius at Susa, Persia

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Palace of Darius at Susa, Persia



Deciphering Cuneiform Script

One of the earliest systems of writing invented by the Sumerians. It is distinguished by its wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets, made using a blunt reed for a stylus.



Gaziantep

Waššukani

Mosul ••• Ninive

Aleppo

Hatra ••• Assur

Kirkuk ••• Nuzi

Hama

Palmyra •••

Mari •••

MESOPOTAMIA

Euphrates

Tigris

Zagros Mountains

Lebanon

Syria

Syrische Wüste

Iraq

Iran

Israel

Jerusalem

Amman

Jordan

approximate extent of
the Persian Gulf
until 5500 B.C.

Kuwait

300 km

Charax-S

Basra

Uruk

Lagas

Nippur

Kisch

Babylon

Sippar

Kerbela

Nadschaf



The cuneiform script was developed from pictographic proto-writing in the late 4th millennium BC.

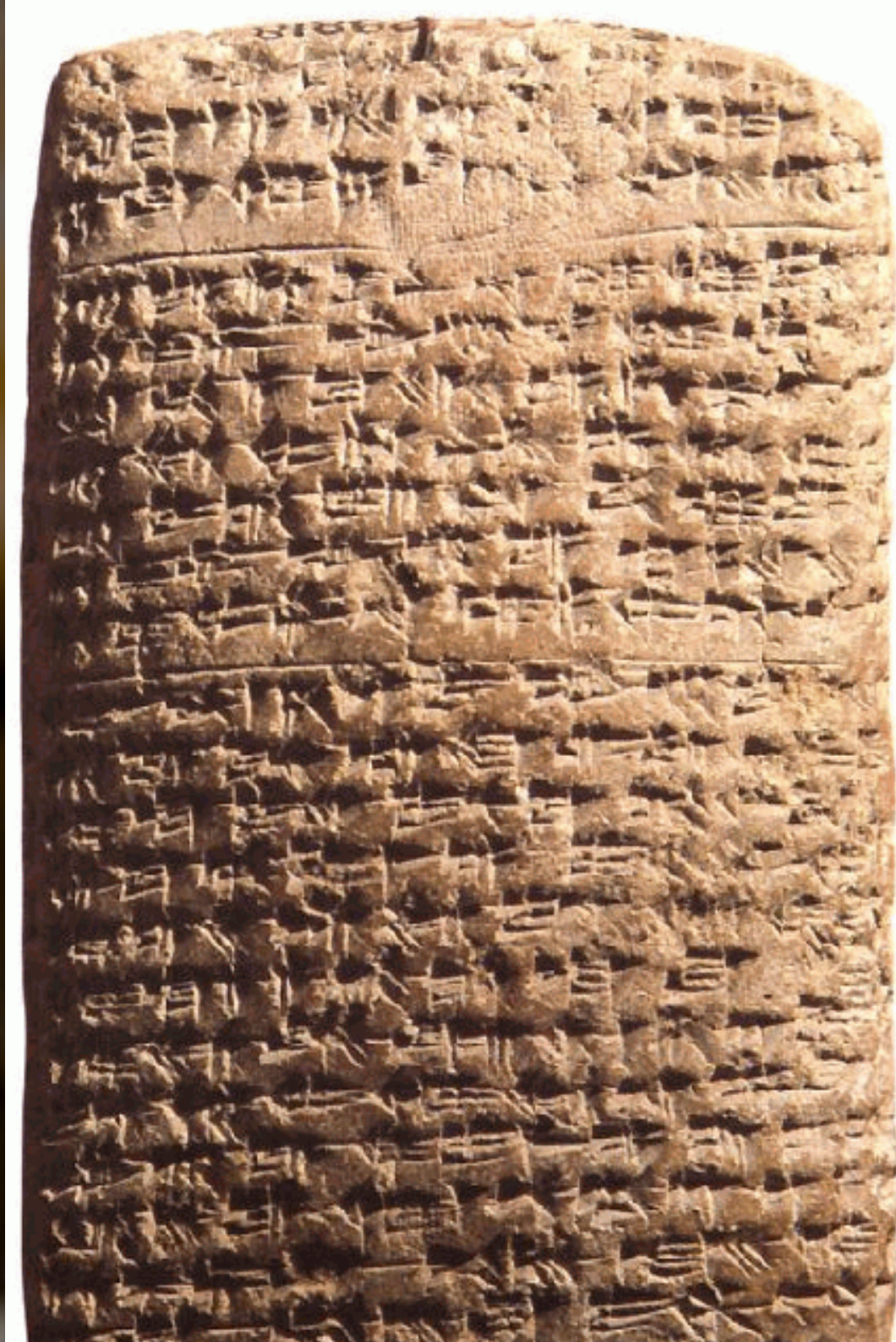
Mesopotamia's proto-literate period spans the 35th to 32nd centuries.



Hieroglyph pictograms at the ancient Egyptian capital Luxor



Aztec Sun Stone
carved between 1502 and 1521







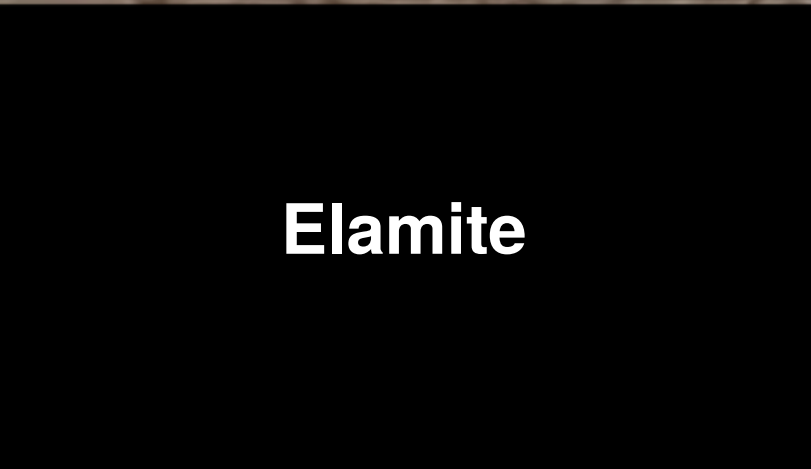


Dārayava(h)uš

天 地 人 三 才 合 一



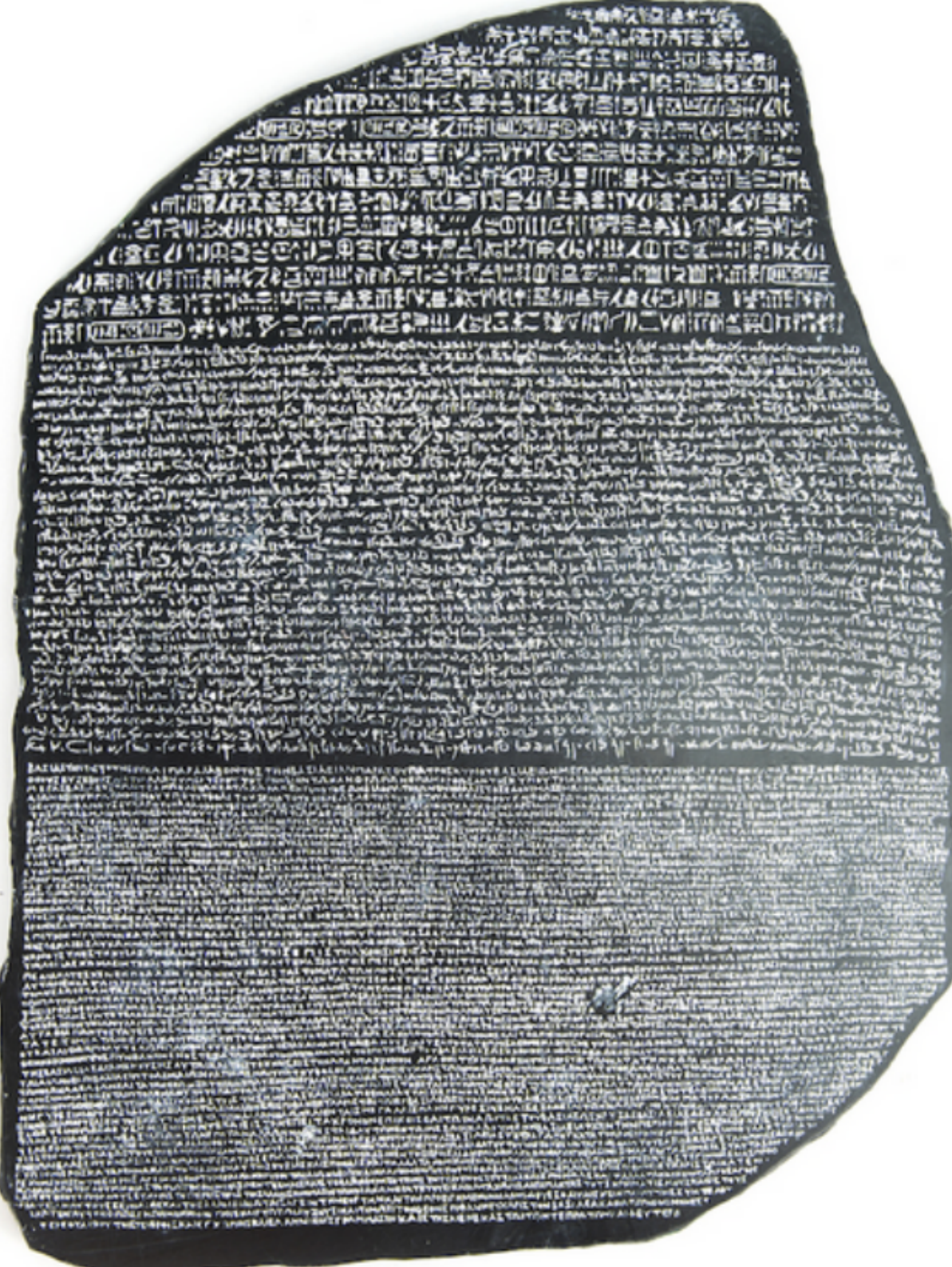
Old Persian



Elamite



Babylonian

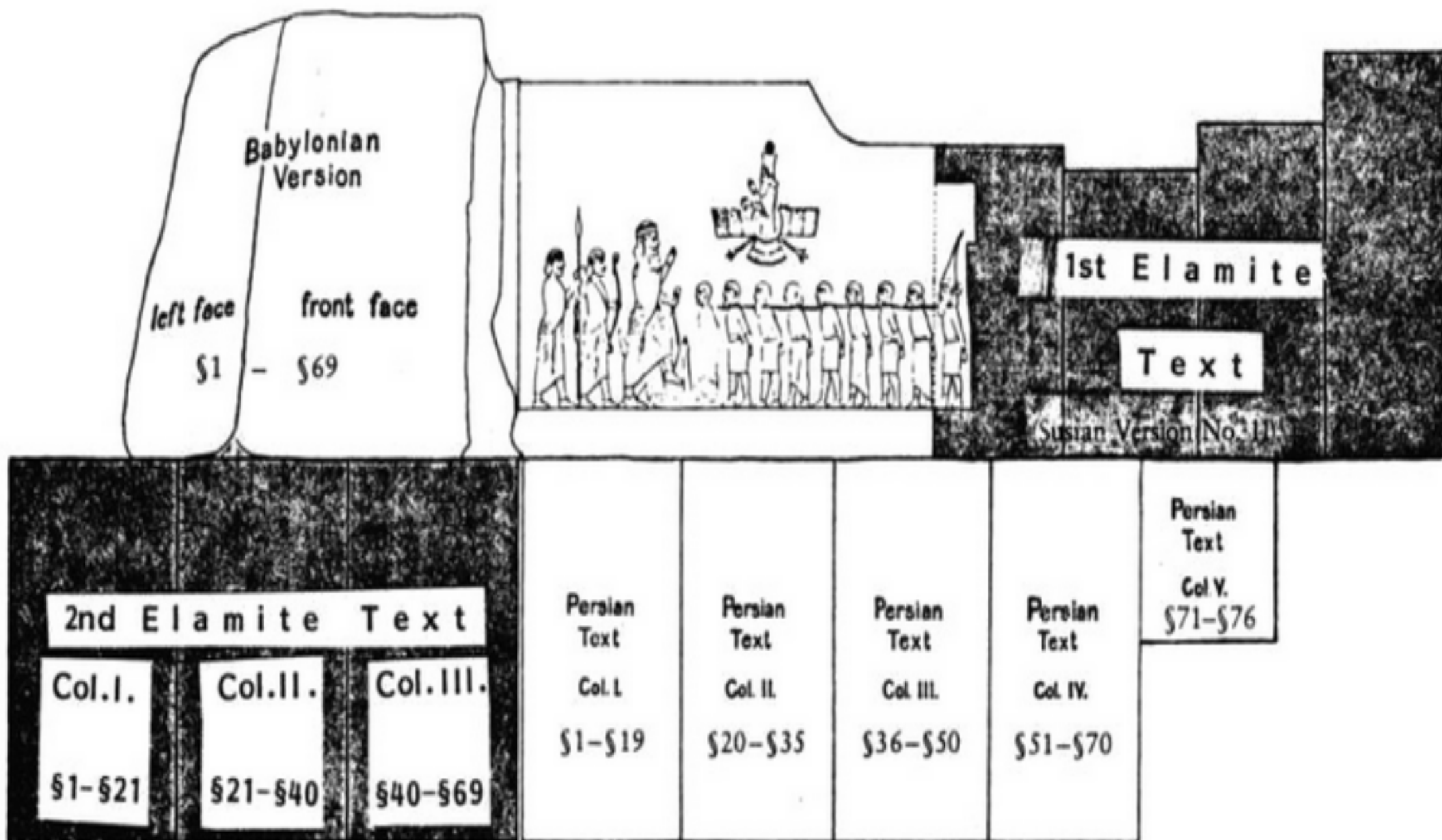


**The Rosetta Stone
Found in 1799, inscribed with
three scripts in 196 BC.**

**The top and middle texts are in
Ancient Egyptian using
Hieroglyphic and Demotic
scripts, respectively.**

The bottom is in Ancient Greek.

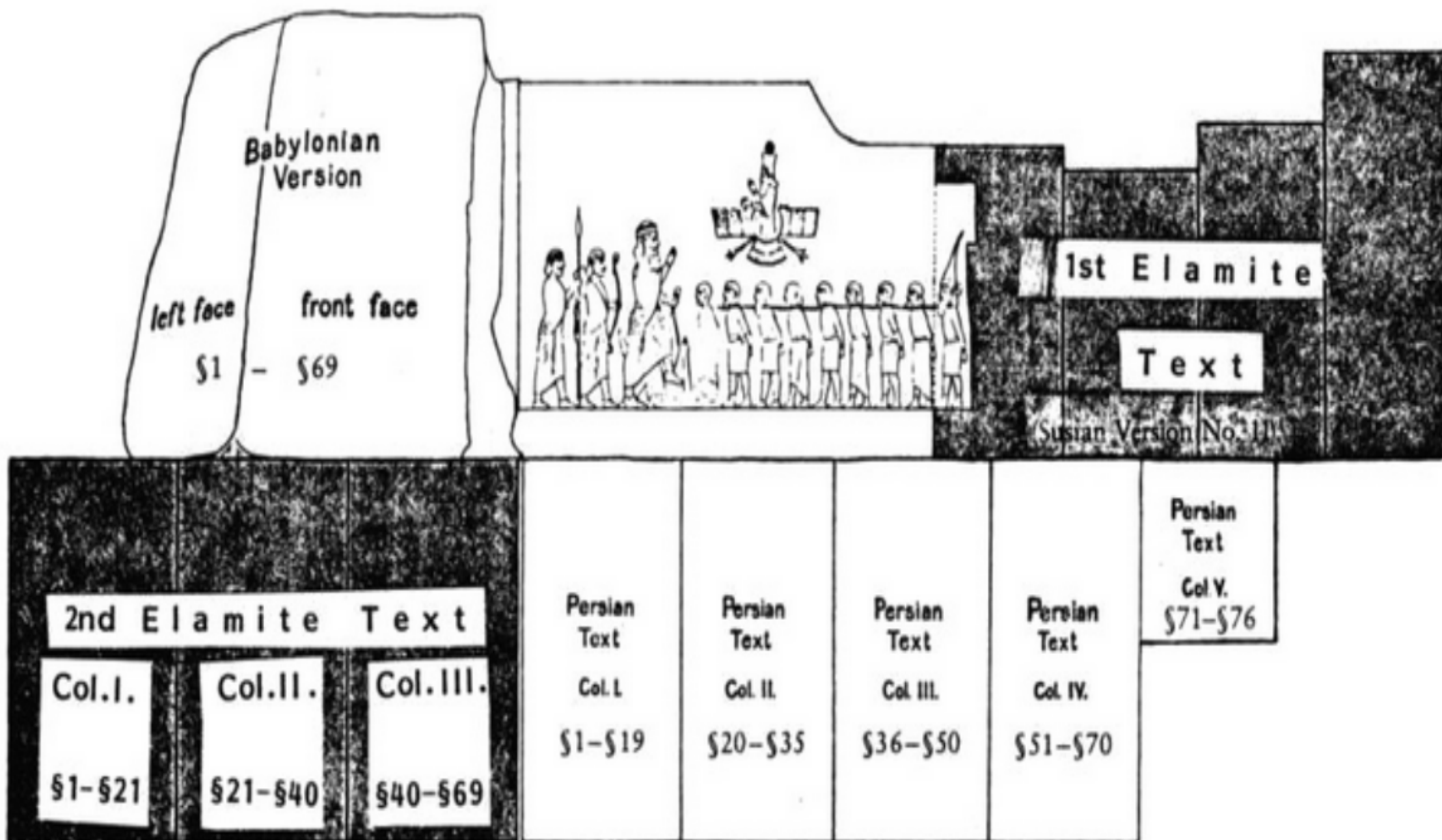
**The Rosetta Stone was the key
to deciphering Egyptian
hieroglyphs.**



The positions of the Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian versions of the major trilingual inscription DB on the rock at Bisotūn. Source: King and Thompson, pl. VI; corrected by Borger, fig. 2; adapted by R. Schmitt



**Gaumata under Darius I's
boot engraved at the Behistun
Inscription in Bisotun,
Kermanshah province.**



The positions of the Old Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian versions of the major trilingual inscription DB on the rock at Bisotūn. Source: King and Thompson, pl. VI; corrected by Borger, fig. 2; adapted by R. Schmitt

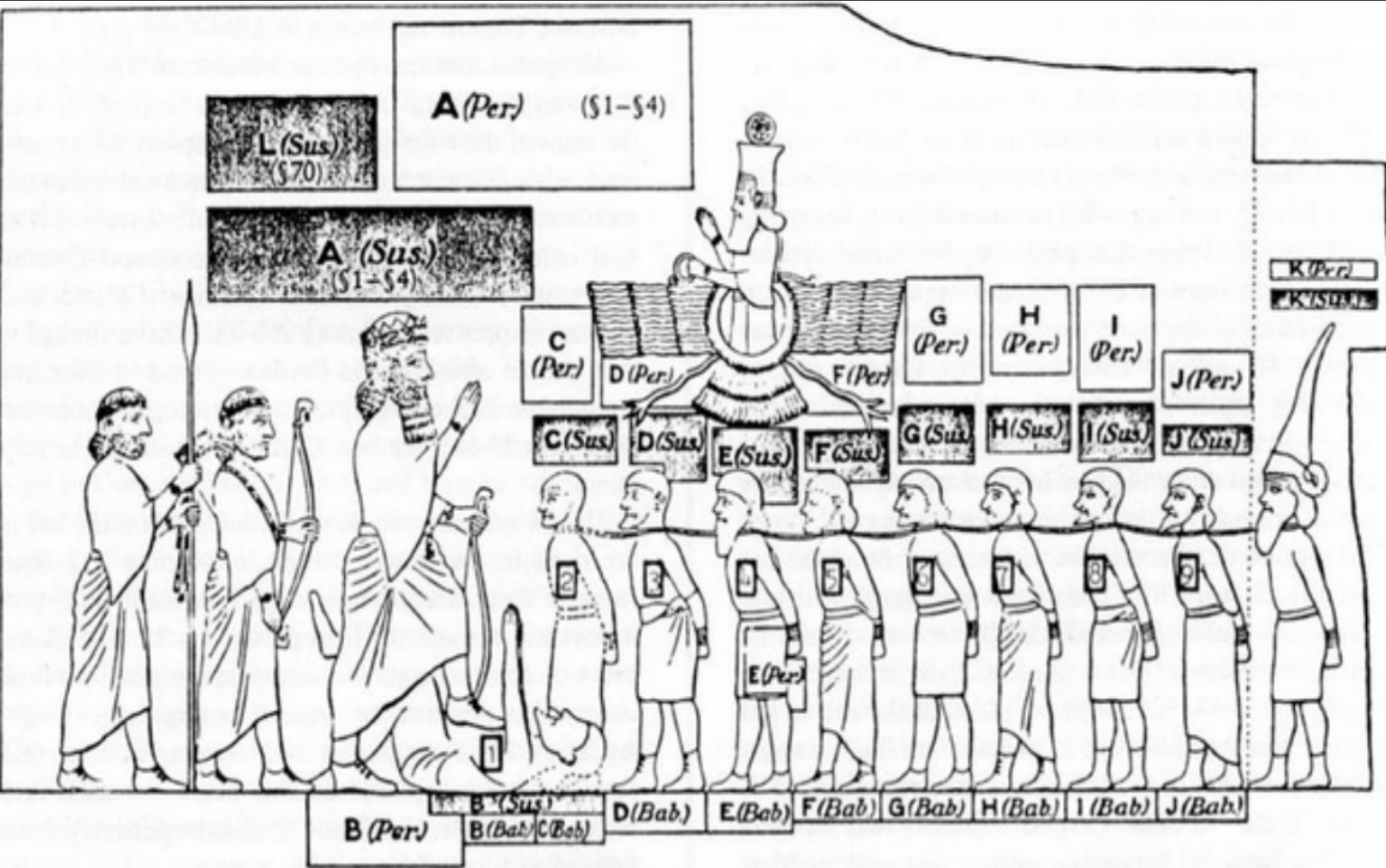


Figure 22. The positions of the minor Old Persian ("Per."), Elamite ("Sus."), and Babylonian ("Bab.") inscriptions DBA-1 ("A-L") on the Bīsotūn relief. Source: King and Thompson, pl. XIII; corrected by Borger, fig. 1.













**Herodotus, Greek historian.
A contemporary of Socrates.
The Father of History**

**Born in Halicarnassus
Persian Empire
Modern-day Bodrum, Turkey**

**Lived in fifth century BC
(484-425 BC).**

**It (she) fell, my building, its foundations collapsed;
It was not the builders' fault, but the rock gave way,
Where I had hoped to find rock, I found loose clay
It (she) fell, my edifice, (that) which I had been building for so
long**

**And so, my edifice subsided, and I shall have to build it up again,
You change it to the site that suits her/it
Who changes his place, changes his fate!
For each (piece of land) has its own shape (features);
There is white land and there is black land, and red
But above all, (what) you want from it is a fruit.**

Xiden il cada ye gixeni tale mliadurum
Anja's fil gneri uale n'sab fo humorum
Alb m'bande chabim sultan uile mule
Bir igami - ximitine b'tragu mar sule
Sen bayran al garca n'el fi tirag m'nozoh
Niti la vy wargia m'ni d'eyom fil b'nhos il bah

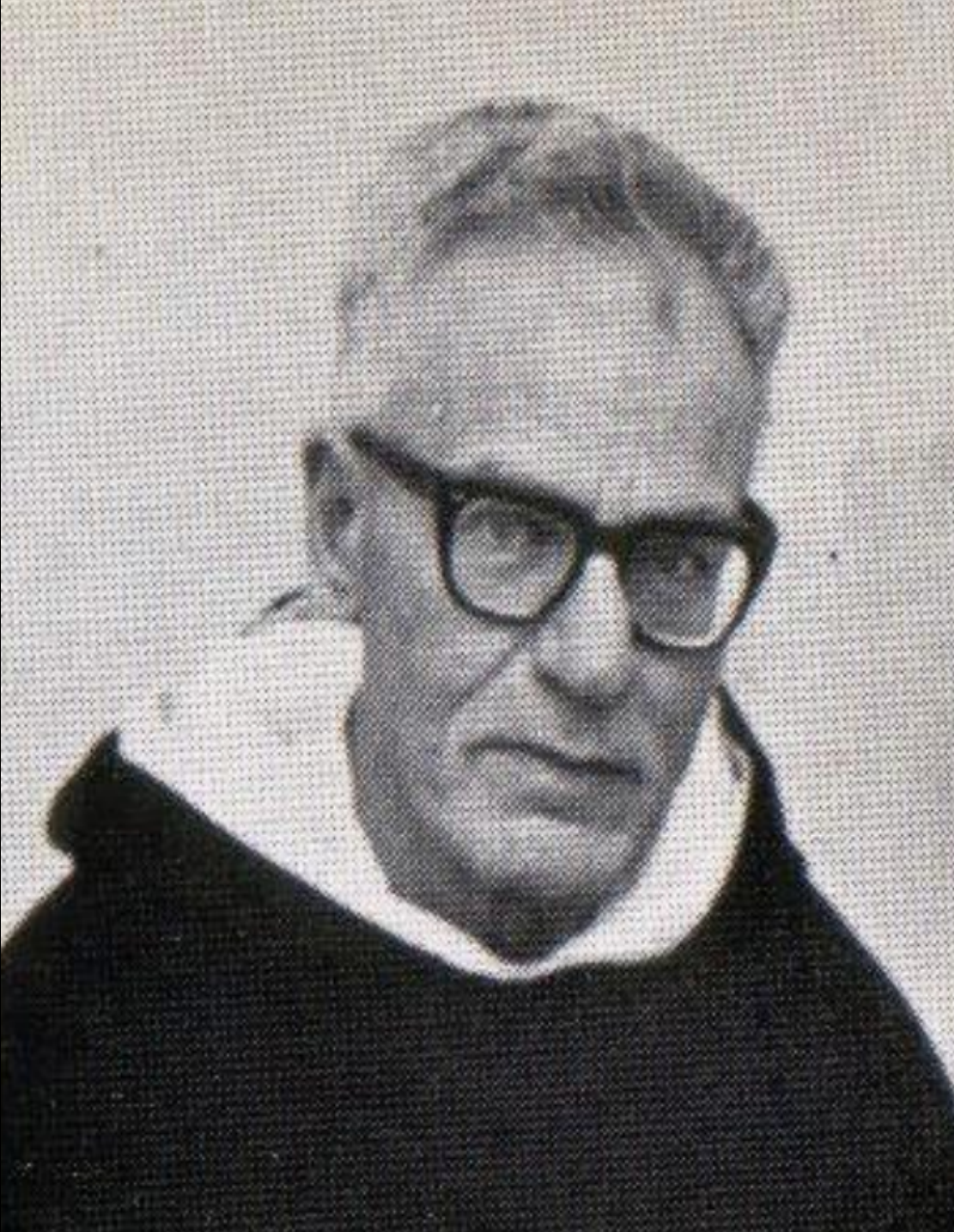
Huait hi miramanti lili Zonen nibry
m'entile m'ballim m'et'atoli tafal m'or's
fon timaxt m'sab il gebol sib tafal m'or's
vackir hi miramanti

Huait hi miramanti Zigit hi li sison
m'entile m'ballim ma b'ntle lig'el
fon timaxt isab il gebol sib tafal m'or's
Huait hi miramanti lili Zonen nibry
Huait u'atit hi miramanti v'ag'ia ibme
biddilhe nite il miken illi x'utihe
Am ibidil il miken ibidil il v'ontim
balox liradi al col o'ebir sira
Hem me a'at b'nyda hem a'at s'onde a'at h'nyra
Hactm m'bedann hem t'ed m'ure m'and

Il-Kantilena is the oldest literary text in the Maltese language. It dates from the 15th century (1470s) but was not found until 1966 by Mikiel Fsadni.

The poem is attributed to Pietru Caxaro and was recorded by Caxaro's nephew, Brandano, in his notarial register

(Dec. 1533 - May 1563).



Mikiel Fsadni



Godfrey Wettinger

The Notarial Archives of Malta

Medieval Notaries



Notaries under the Knights

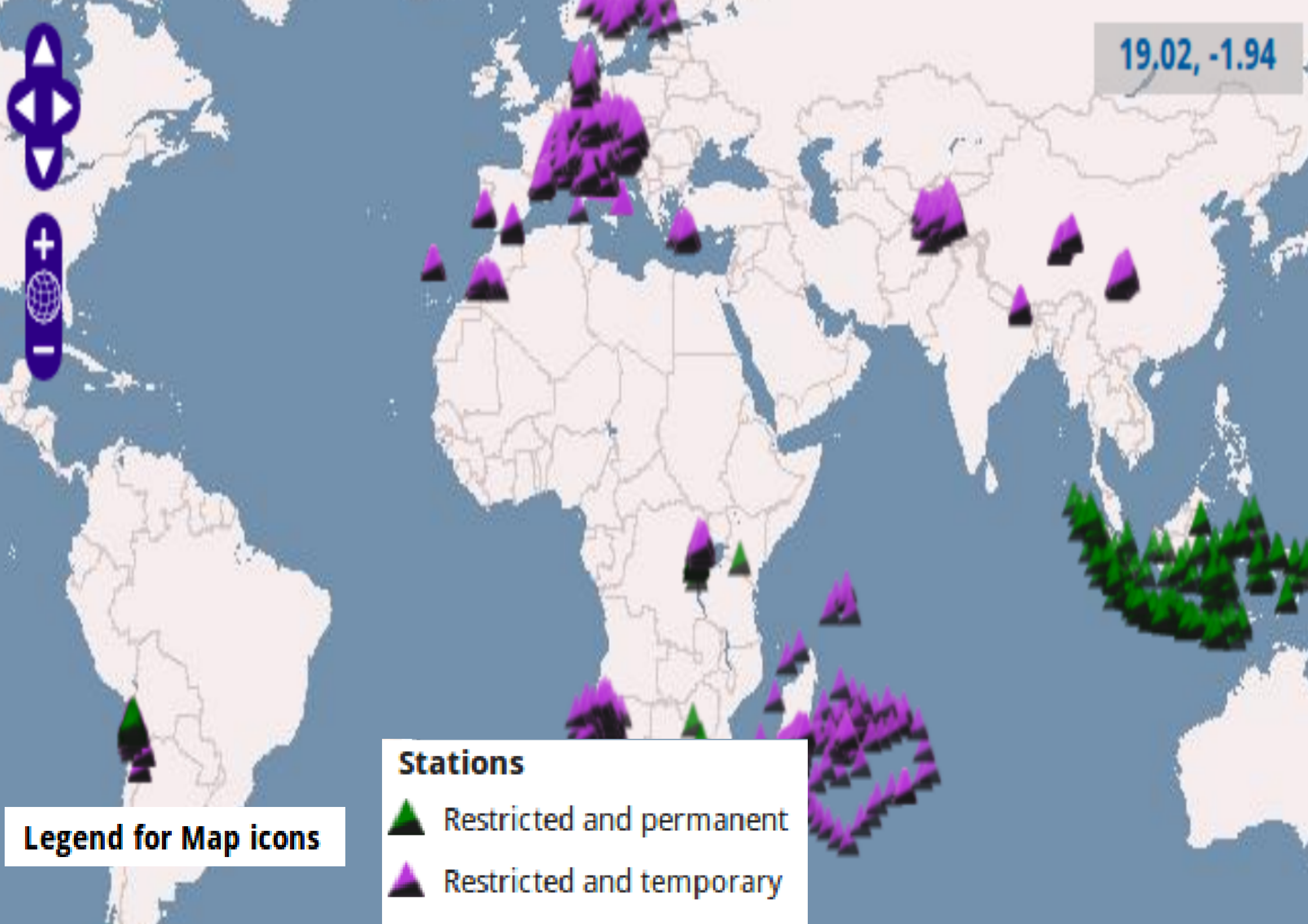


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Legend for Map icons



Stations

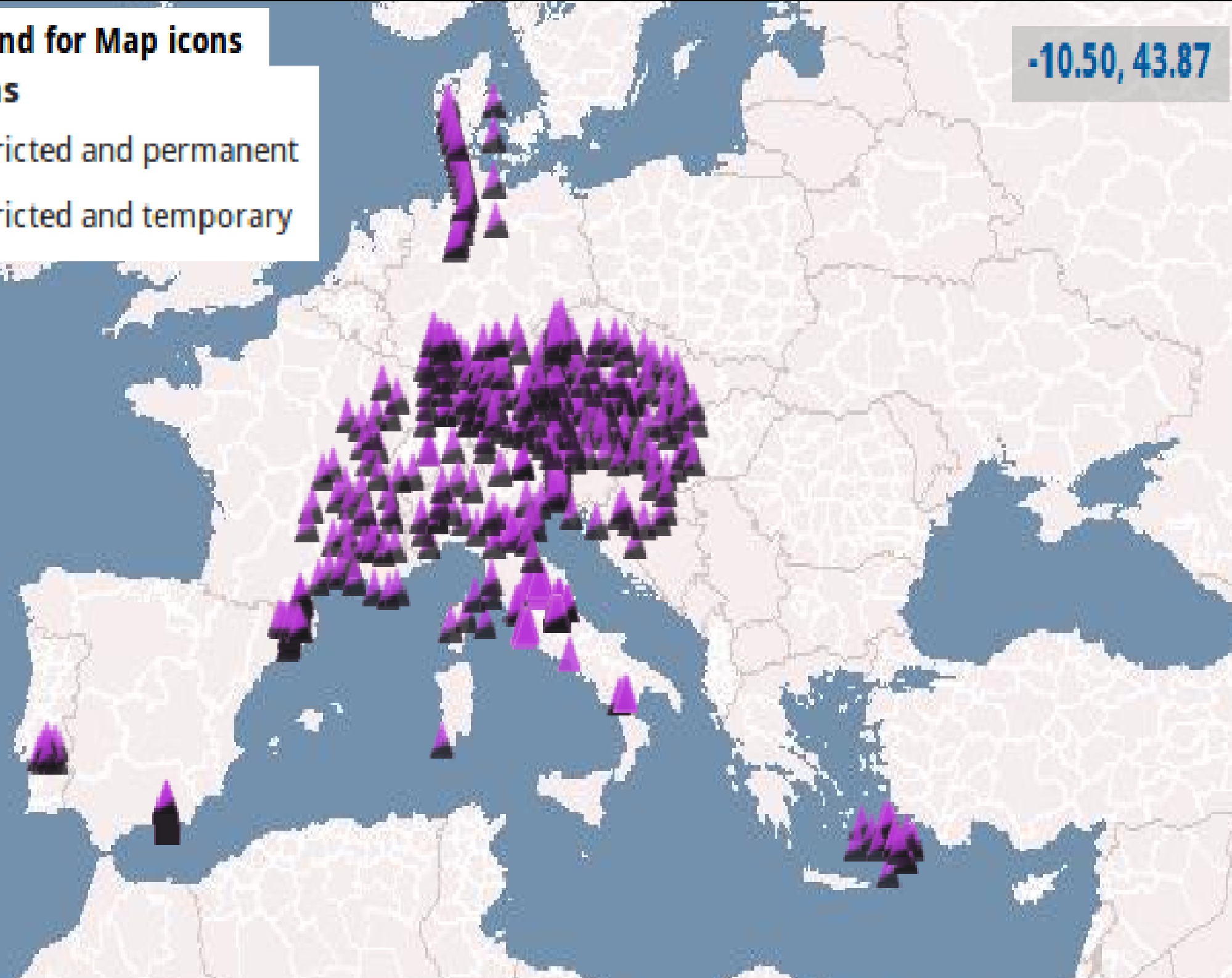
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-  Restricted and temporary

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Stations



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-  Restricted and temporary



13.34, 44.06



Stations

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-  Restricted and temporary

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Seismic Station Information

International Research Institutions for Seismology

<http://geoserver.iris.edu/stations>

Seismic Station Existing Network List

International Federation of Digital Seismograph Networks

<http://www.fdsn.org/networks/>

Permanent Seismic Network List

<http://ds.iris.edu/mda>

Temporary Seismic Network List

<http://ds.iris.edu/mda#tnetlist>

Geofon Program

<http://geofon.gfz-potsdam.de/waveform/>

Explore Seismic Stations

Access to GEOFON and EIDA Data Archives

<http://webdc.eu/webdc3/>

GNU Behistun

<https://www.gnu.org/software/gbehistun/>

<https://savannah.gnu.org/cvs/?group=gbehistun>